Qualified small issue bonds play an important role in creating and sustaining a vibrant manufacturing sector in rural communities. Today, however, the so-called ''$10 million limit'' impedes many growing manufacturers from taking advantage of the benefits of qualified small issue bonds. This rule states that the aggregate face amount of the issue, together with the aggregate amount of certain related capital expenditures during a six-year period beginning three years before the date of issue and ending three years after that date, must not exceed $10 million. This $10 million limit was imposed in 1978. It does not consider changes in the economy, inflation, or the increased costs associated with the construction of manufacturing facilities. Even in small rural communities like those in the district, industrial development authorities have projects that routinely exceed this $10 million limit and are therefore ineligible for this type of financing.

The Industrial Development Bond Promotion Act of 2002 would permit capital expenditures of $30 million to be disregarded in determining the aggregate face amount of certain qualified small issue bonds.

Given today's global economy and proof that U.S. manufacturers are not adverse to building and manufacturing offshore, it is most important that the calculation of the limit be changed. Across the country, manufacturing jobs are declining. The manufacturing sector's share of all U.S. jobs slipped from 17 percent ten years ago to 13 percent today. Small issue bonds are a valuable tool to local economic development authorities and go a long way toward creating and maintaining investment in manufacturing facilities in communities throughout our country.

We encourage our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

HAROLD BENGSCH AWARDED 2001 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated civil servant who is working daily to improve the health of residents in the Seventh Congressional District of Missouri.

Earlier this month, Harold Bengsch, the Director of the Springfield-Greene County, Missouri Health Department, was awarded the 2001 Humanitarian of the Year Award, established by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. The recognition comes with a $5,000 cash award that is to be divided between the recipient and the charities of their choice. Mr. Bengsch, true to the reasons why he was so honored, gave the entire amount to charity.

Harold received the award for three decades of outstanding work improving the area's public health. His dedication and vision were instrumental in cutting the number of children testing positive for elevated blood lead levels in Greene County from 28 percent to 15 percent. Under his leadership, immunization rates for children at two years of age has increased from less than 50 percent to more than 90 percent. As director of the local health department, Harold has conducted research, had his studies published in professional journals and is responsible for the ongoing management of the ever growing city-county public health programs. These programs include disease control, preventive and environmental health and medical services.

Harold is a proven problem solver. He is a master at bringing people together—those who need the service and those who provide it. His soft-spoken manner, intelligence and broad experience in public health issues makes Harold Bengsch an invaluable resource to his community and well respected throughout the state of Missouri.

The unreasonable actions of government bureaucrats are regularly criticized on the Floor of the House. In this case I want my colleagues to know there is at least one bureaucrat who is doing an outstanding job of serving the public. I can assert without hesitation that the public health of Springfield Greene County and Southwest Missouri is better today because of the work, effort and vision of Harold Bengsch.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on H. Res. 320, H.R. 3529, and the motion to recommit H.R. 3529. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on H. Res. 320 and H.R. 3529, and ''nay'' on the motion to recommit H.R. 3529.

H.R. 3295, HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering H.R. 3295, the ''Help America Vote Act of 2001,'' an election reform proposal that seeks to address many of the problems with our national electoral system. It has been over a year since the 2000 Presidential Election, which brought many of these problems to light. Although it is not perfect, this legislation is long over-due, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I won't rehash the events of the 2000 Campaign, as we are all too familiar with hanging chads, the flawed butterfly ballot, and the countless ballots in Florida—and elsewhere—that were discarded and not tallied. That was a national tragedy. We've had a year to do something here in the House, and I am glad we are finally acting. I hope we can use this important legislation to address many of the shortcomings of our national voting system. H.R. 3295 is just a first step in our ongoing effort to restore our constituents' trust in the system of how we conduct our elected officials. Our constituents deserve to have that trust restored.

This bill authorizes $400 million for one-time payments to states or counties to replace punch card voting systems in time for the November 2002 general election. These are the infamous ballots used in Florida and elsewhere.

H.R. 3295 also creates a bipartisan Election Assistance Commission, which is intended to be a national clearinghouse for information and to review the procedures used for Federal elections.

It authorizes $2.25 billion to help states improve their voting systems. Specifically, this bill will help states establish and maintain accurate voter lists; encourage voters to get out and vote; improve voting equipment; improve the processes for verification and identification of voters; recruit and train poll workers; improve access for voters with disabilities; and finally, educate voters about their rights and responsibilities.

Most importantly, H.R. 3295 will establish minimum federal standards for state election systems regarding voter registration systems, provisional voting, the maintenance of accuracy of voter registration records; overseas absentee voting procedures, permitting voters with disabilities to cast a secret ballot, and allow voters an opportunity to correct errors.

Now, as I said earlier, this bill is not perfect. In fact many well-respected organizations in the civil rights community oppose this legislation. I understand and share some of their frustrations. However, I believe that by passing this bill today, we can move the process forward in hopes that the bill that comes back from the Senate will have many improvements.

I commend my colleagues Mr. NEY of Ohio and Mr. HOYER of Maryland for their hard work in crafting this legislation. I encourage them, however, to work with Mr. CONYERS of Michigan and Senator DODD to ensure that if there is a conference on this bill, we can vote for an even better bill.

Vote yes on H.R. 3295.

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a sponsor of H.R. 3448, which was introduced in the House on December 11, 2001, I would like to include for the record the following description of the bill:

Section 302 would provide the Secretary authority to administratively detain any article of food where FDA has credible evidence or information indicating that such article ''presents a threat of serious adverse health consequences or death to humans or animals.'' The ''serious adverse health consequences'' standard, which is used consistently in Title III of this Act, relates to the situation in which there is a reasonable probability that the use of, or exposure to, a violative product will cause serious adverse health consequences or death. This corresponds to FDA guidance pursuant to Title 21, Section 7.3 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The authority provided under Section 302 may not be delegated by the Secretary to any official less senior than the FDA district director in which the article is located. Under this authority, the article may be detained for a